A case under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act was registered at Police Station, Hari Nagar. A warder has already been suspended and another is being chargesheeted.

(c) Amongst the steps being taken are :—

(i) intensification of frisking of prisoners and visitors ;

(ii) increase in the frequency of surprise searches of prisoners and wards ; and

(iii) strict action against prisoners/staff whenever narcotic/smack is recovered.

Killings of Paramilitary Personnel in Punjab

242. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of police and para-military personnel killed in encounters in Punjab during the last six months ;

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to restore confidence in police there ;

(c) whether Government have analysed the reasons for sudden spurt in violence in Punjab ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action Government have taken to curb the violence ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) According to available information received from the Government of Punjab 174 paramilitary personnel and policemen have been killed in Punjab during the last 6 months. Specific information about number of paramilitary personnel and policemen killed in encounters is not readily available.

(b) to (d) Law and Order being a State subject, it is for the State Government to devise strategies for dealing with the problems like terrorism. Central Government keeps in close touch with the Governments of the State affected by terrorism and extends all possible assistance as and when required.

Role of North Eastern Council

243. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 273 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th February, 1992 and state :

(a) whether Government have since taken any decision to change the role of the North Eastern Council ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and if not, by when Government are likely to take a decision in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) The Government have not taken any decision to change the role of the North Eastern Council.

(b) The question does not arise.

Thefts on Running Trains

244. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of thefts that took place on running trains during the year 1992 till date ; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to prevent such thefts during the same period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) and (b) The data regarding the cases of theft on running trains during the year 1992 have not been compiled by the Central agencies. The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime on running trains is the responsibility of the Government Railway Police which functions under the